

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### CELEBRATING MRS. ANNA WALLACE'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize Mrs. Anna Wallace who will celebrate her 100th birthday on September 12, 2006. Mrs. Wallace is a lifelong resident of South Buffalo and lives in an apartment at 36 Columbus Avenue and her grandson lives upstairs. Anna is the daughter of Cecelia and Daniel Hurley, and was raised in the family home on Woodside Avenue with two siblings, Cecelia Duggan and Daniel Hurley.

On June 9, 1926, Anna was married to Francis Wallace by the revered Reverend John Nash in Holy Family Roman Catholic Church on South Park Avenue. She and Francis were married for 71 years until he passed away in 1997.

The Wallace's were always a very social couple and remained active well into their 80s. To this day, Anna is a member of the Catholic Daughters at Holy Family Church. She and her husband were instrumental in starting the second chapter of the Muscular Dystrophy Society in the nation and they were involved in raising money for the Muscular Dystrophy Society, the disease that afflicted their son, Paul. For many years Anna was a school aide in the City of Buffalo working with handicapped children.

Anna and Francis had four children, Mary Katherine Jordan (deceased), Janet Ann (deceased), Frances Carol Konter, and Paul Francis (deceased). She will be celebrating this momentous occasion with her daughter, 10 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren and 8 great great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to pay tribute to Mrs. Anna Wallace, a strong and inspirational woman. I am pleased to extend my best wishes to Mrs. Wallace upon this very special birthday and further wish her health and happiness in the years to come. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Wallace a very happy 100th Birthday.

### HONORING THE NOVATO YOUTH CENTER

#### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Novato Youth Center, which is commemorating 30 years of community service to the children, youth and families of Novato, California.

In response to the need for a safe and nurturing environment for children, parents and community leaders launched an energetic grassroots effort to establish the Novato Youth

Center in 1976. Now, 30 years later, the Youth Center provides a safe and caring home away from home while responding to ever changing community needs. Serving children, infants through 18 years, the Youth Center offers childcare and recreational activities, as well as teen pregnancy prevention programs, tutoring, family counseling, and Parent Project workshops. Youth serve in many positions, and are involved as program volunteers, sports coaches, event planners, and as full voting members on the board of directors.

Through advocacy and outreach, Novato Youth Center's mission is to increase the community's investment in its youth, and to nurture and encourage youth to realize their potential for growth and personal development. The founding parents and Board Members were an ideal match for this mission. Honorary Board Members include: Robert Busher, Tommie Whitener, Steve Rempe, Peter E. Haas, Jr., David Kenyon, Dennis DeSousa, Alan Dunham, Ed Lathrop, Vicki McDill, Dave Milano, and Paul Scheller.

Over the years Novato Youth Center grew steadily, developing successful collaborations with Novato Unified School District, the City of Novato, the County of Marin, Novato Community Hospital, and other local youth service and childcare providers. Providing strong community leadership, the Youth Center played a key role in starting the Novato Youth Wellness Collaborative, also serving as its fiscal agent. As a result, the Novato Wellness Center will open soon, offering health education, teen pregnancy counseling, substance abuse prevention, mental health services, and a health clinic devoted to teens.

Collaborative and inclusive in philosophy, the Youth Center is committed to serving youth across ethnicities, economic levels, age groups, social and educational levels. To that end, the Youth Center champions respect and diversity, recruiting and hiring bicultural and bilingual staff to ensure the full spectrum of needs and interests of all communities are met.

Mr. Speaker, Novato Youth Center provides an invaluable role in preparing our youth for the challenges of the future as well as instilling the values of community involvement and education. I am proud to honor the Novato Youth Center on this memorable occasion.

### IN HONOR OF MR. EUTIQUEO CHAPA

#### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Eutiquio Chapa upon his receipt of the National Hispanic Heritage Youth Award in the category of Education. This prestigious award is given each year to Latino high school graduates who have excelled in academic achievement, community service, and writing.

The Hispanic Heritage Foundation, a Washington-based non-profit organization which commemorates ethnic dignity and education, specifically tasks each applicant to express the influence of their heritage on their personal success. Looking at Mr. Chapa's accomplishments and goals, it is evident why he was chosen.

Mr. Chapa was a top student at Palma High School, where he graduated with a 4.4 GPA and was named a National Hispanic Scholar. Furthermore, Mr. Chapa was chosen for a special summer program at M.I.T. in 2005. All of this success was in the face of criticism he endured from his own peer group for changing schools midway through high school. Eutiquio Chapa has been accepted to Stanford University for the fall and will no doubt have much success there.

A second-generation Mexican-American from King City, CA, Eutiquio Chapa is interested in furthering his knowledge of the human brain. He plans to develop manners of instruction in order to improve the education process for low-income elementary grade level students learning English as a second language. He is obviously determined to equip others with educational possibilities.

Mr. Speaker, my heartfelt congratulations go to Eutiquio Chapa. It is a true pleasure to have him as a member of my constituency.

### HISPANIC HERITAGE FOUNDATION HONORING DR. JULIET GARCIA

#### HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a patriotic American honored this month by the—Hispanic Heritage Foundation—Dr. Juliet Garcia of Brownsville, Texas.

Dr. Garcia has been a groundbreaker for higher education, becoming the first Mexican American woman in the nation to ascend to the presidency of a university, the University of Texas at Brownsville (UTB).

She has provided improved higher education opportunities for the people in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of South Texas.

She has led UTB through a phenomenal period of growth and success. The campus has grown from 49 acres to 382 acres, enrollment has increased by 27 percent, and student performance has improved dramatically.

The Hispanic Heritage Foundation promotes and celebrates Hispanic culture, education, and accomplishment through year-round national and regional inspirational leadership programs by sponsoring a number of educational and cultural programs, including the Hispanic Heritage Awards, Youth Awards, and the LOFT (Latinos on Fast Track) Initiative.

The Hispanic Heritage Awards and Ceremony began as a small White House ceremony in 1987 honoring the creation of Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15 thru October 15. The award is a prestigious honor for

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Dr. Garcia and is a culmination of the Foundation's year-round efforts.

In an evening filled with cultural pride and celebration, the Foundation and the audience honor notable Hispanics who have distinguished themselves as role models in the Hispanic community while making a positive impact in our country.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Hispanic Heritage Awards and the theme of the 2006 ceremony will be "Looking Back, Moving Forward," representing the Hispanic community as part of the history of this Nation and our presence in the Nation's future.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in commending our Texas pioneer, Dr. Garcia, for her recognition as an outstanding educator that inspires our community, increases individual excellence among young Hispanics, and raises the standard of excellence at UTB.

#### A GREAT POINT-OF-LIGHT FOR ALL AMERICANS: REGINALD WEAVER

##### HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 7, 2006*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute a dynamic trailblazer who continues to set a productive pace for positive change within the ranks of the Nation's education leaders. Reginald Weaver is a magnificent Great Point-of-Light. He is both profound and practical in his pursuit of school improvement across the Nation for all children. In addition to protecting the interests of the largest organization of teachers, he is a tireless spokesman for education policy-making and the need to increase expenditures for the basics which support opportunities to learn: improved and new school facilities; teacher training and compensation; adequate school libraries; science laboratories; computer instruction; and other necessities.

As a strong advocate for public education, Reginald Weaver was elected president of the 2.7 million-member National Education Association. He has traveled across the country as an ambassador for public education, stressing the association's mission to ensure that every child in America can attend a great public school right in his or her own neighborhood. In order to have great public schools, Mr. Weaver has outlined six areas that need to be addressed: parental involvement, high-quality school employees, high-quality classroom instruction, educators who give their best to every child, a high-quality teacher in every classroom, and fixing and funding the No Child Left Behind law. His NEA career started as a local president in Harvey, IL and eventually he became the president of the Illinois Education Association from 1981 to 1987; served on the NEA Executive Committee from 1989 to 1995 and as NEA vice president from 1996 to 2002. In addition, he serves on the executive board of the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education and on the board of governors of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. Among his many accomplishments, he was named to the Ebony 2004 100+ Most Influential Black Americans list and was featured in Who's Who, as well as in Who's Who in Black America.

For his continuing leadership on the frontlines in the crusade for excellence in education, we salute Reginald Weaver as a Great Point-of-Light for all Americans.

#### HONORING SESQUICENTENNIAL OF ATASCOSA COUNTY

##### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 7, 2006*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the sesquicentennial of Atascosa County, which resides within the 28th District of Texas. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of Atascosa County.

Atascosa County had its beginnings after the Texas Revolution, when several land grants were given out to notable Texans such as Jose Antonio Navarro that marked extensive colonization in the area in 1853. The first county seat, Navatasco, was established in 1857 on land donated by Navarro. Many of the new settlers were recent immigrants from Mexico, Germany, and England. The early years of the twentieth century brought many changes to Atascosa County. Several railroads were built that helped connect the towns of Leming, Pleasanton, McCoy, Charlotte, and Hindes. In 1910, the residents of Atascosa County voted to officially make Jourdanton the county seat.

Agriculture is a vital part of Atascosa County with a wide variety of agricultural products ranging from livestock to strawberries. In 2002, there were over 1,539 farms and ranches covering 669,890 acres, 52% of which were devoted to pasture, 33% to crops, and 12% to woodlands. In that year alone, local farmers and ranchers earned \$51,808,000, with livestock sales accounting for \$34,534,000 of that total. Oil and gas also continue to be a leading industry in the county, with over 1,236,387 barrels of oil produced in 1990. By the end of 2004, over 149,778,538 barrels of oil have been produced in Atascosa County. The largest communities in the county are Jourdanton, Pleasanton, Campbellton, Poteet, Lytle, Charlotte, Christine, Leming, McCoy, and Peggy. Some of the county's wonderful attractions include the famous Poteet Strawberry Festival, the Jourdanton Days Celebration, and the Cowboy Homecoming and Rodeo in Pleasanton. As we look back on the past 150 years with pride, we also look forward to a very promising future for Atascosa County.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to honor Atascosa County on their 150th anniversary, and I thank you for this time.

#### RECOGNIZING ARMY SPECIALIST GARY PITTS OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA

##### HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 7, 2006*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I Rise today to honor Gary Pitts of Inverness, Florida, an Army Specialist who served in Iraq and is currently based at Fort Carson, Colorado.

Born in Inverness, Florida, Specialist Pitts graduated from Citrus High School in 1993. Following the events of September 11, he felt a strong need to do his part to fight the global war on terror and joined the Army at the age of 26. Completing basic training in May 2002 at Fort Knox, Kentucky, he went on to advanced training at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Deployed to Iraq in February 2003 for a 5-month tour as a Patriot missile operator, Specialist Pitts returned to Fort Bliss following the completion of his duties. Having completed his initial commitment, on April 6, 2004, Specialist Pitts re-enlisted for another 3 years. Once again deployed to Iraq in March 2005, he served for a year in the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment as a radar operator and a turret gunner. While serving in Iraq, Specialist Pitts' missions included convoy security and elections security during Iraq's first elections.

Specialist Pitts received the Combat Action Badge for engaging the enemy in action following an IED explosion next to his vehicle. Currently based at Fort Carson, Specialist Pitts has approximately 8 more months to complete his 6 years of enlistment.

In addition to his military service, Specialist Pitts has a natural talent for art and creativity, winning numerous blue ribbons for his pastel artwork. He is now married and living in Colorado Springs and enjoys his visits home to see his parents, Mike and Anne, and brothers, Steven and Mike. He also visits his sister Michele and niece Tiffany who live in Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, it is soldiers like Gary Pitts who volunteer to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear to their hearts. He is to be commended for his service to our Nation and for his commitment to his family and loved ones. This Congress will never forget his sacrifices in battle.

#### JIM WESTFALL—JOHNS FELLOWSHIP AWARDEE

##### HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 7, 2006*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to honor James M. Westfall as the Johns Fellowship Award Winner for 2006. After graduating from high school, "Jim" Westfall completed the San Diego Electrical Joint Apprenticeship 4-year program in 1973.

In 1976, he began working for the Bechtel Power Corp., at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station and advanced to General Foreman in the Electrical Department. In 1980, Jim was elected Business Representative for I.B.E.W. Local 569 and served for 7 years.

For the past 19 years, Jim has been employed with the San Diego Electrical Training Trust as Administrative Manager/Director of Training. During his tenure, Jim was instrumental in building the Apprenticeship from 300 students with 12 instructors to 13 full-time staff, 1250 students and 75 instructors.

During his 30-year career, Jim has served on the National Electrical Training Directors Association, California Apprenticeship Coordinators Association and the Apprenticeship Coordinators Association of San Diego. He has also been awarded the Electrical Industry Progress Award for Leadership and Exemplary